

First named inventor: Jagana
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Listing of claims

1. (currently amended) A system for communication between a first host and second host comprising:

means for communicating between a first host and a storage area network using a storage area network protocol in a non-ESCON protocol manner, the storage area network including a plurality of storage devices exclusive of the first host;

means for communicating between a second host and the storage area network using the storage area network protocol in a non-ESCON protocol manner, the storage devices exclusive of the second host; and

means for communicating directly between the first and second hosts using the storage area network protocol in a non-ESCON protocol manner without passing through a storage device.

2. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the storage area network protocol is a FICON protocol.

3. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the means for communicating comprises:

means at the first host for translating between the storage area network protocol and a host-to-host communications protocol selected from the group consisting of TCP/IP and SNA.

4. (currently amended) A system for facilitating the communications of a first host comprising:

means for communicating with a second host using a storage area network protocol in a non-ESCON protocol manner; and

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means for communicating with a storage area network using the storage area network protocol in a non-ESCON protocol manner, the storage area network including a plurality of storage devices exclusive of the first host and the second host.

5. (original) The system of claim 4, wherein the storage area network protocol is a FICON protocol.
6. (original) The system of claim 4, wherein the means for communicating comprises:
means for translating between the storage area network protocol; and
communications protocol selected from the group consisting of TCP/IP and SNA.
7. (currently amended) A method for communicating between a first host and second host comprising:
communicating between a first host and a storage area network using a storage area network protocol in a non-ESCON protocol manner, the storage area network including a plurality of storage devices exclusive of the first host;
communicating between a second host and the storage area network using the storage area network protocol in a non-ESCON protocol manner, the storage devices exclusive of the second host; and
communicating directly between the first and second hosts using the storage area network protocol in a non-ESCON protocol manner without passing through a storage device.
8. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the storage area network protocol is a FICON protocol.

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9. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the step of communicating between the first and second hosts comprises:

the first host translating between the storage area network protocol and a host-to-host communications protocol.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the host-to-host communications protocol is TCP/IP.

11. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein the storage area network protocol is a FICON protocol.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the step of communicating directly between the first and second hosts comprises:

encapsulating TCP/IP packets from the first host in 8232 protocol frames;
transmitting the 8232 protocol frames to the second host using the FICON protocol; and
decapsulating the TCP/IP packets from the 8232 protocol frames at the second host.

13. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of communicating directly between the first and second hosts supports a high-speed file transfer application.

14. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the file transfer application is supported by 3088 emulation.

15. (original) The method of claim 9, where the host-to-host protocol is SNA.

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16. (currently amended) A method for facilitating the communications of a first host comprising:

communicating with a second host using a storage area network protocol in a non-ESCON protocol manner; and

communicating with a storage area network using the storage area network protocol in a non-ESCON protocol manner, the storage area network including a plurality of storage devices exclusive of the first host and the second host.

17. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein the storage area network protocol is a FICON protocol.

18. (original) The method of claim 16, wherein the steps for communicating comprise:
translating between the storage area network protocol and a communications protocol selected from the group consisting of TCP/IP and SNA.

19. (currently amended) An article for communicating between a first host and a second host comprising:

a tangible recordable data storage medium;
means in the medium for communicating between a first host and a storage area network using a storage area network protocol in a non-ESCON protocol manner, the storage area network including a plurality of storage devices exclusive of the first host;

means in the medium for communicating between a second host and the storage area network using a storage area network protocol in a non-ESCON protocol manner, the storage devices exclusive of the second host; and

means in the medium for communicating between the first host and the second host using the storage area network protocol in a non-ESCON protocol manner.

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20. (original) The article of claim 19, wherein the storage area network protocol is a FICON protocol.

21. (original) The article of claim 19, wherein the means in the medium for communicating comprises:

means in the medium at the first host for translating between the storage area network protocol; and

a host-to-host communications protocol selected from the group consisting of TCP/IP and SNA.

22. (cancelled)

23. (previously presented) The article of claim 19, wherein the medium is selected from the group consisting of magnetic, optical, biological and atomic data storage media.

24. (cancelled)

25. (currently amended) An article for communicating with a first host comprising:
a tangible recordable data storage medium; and
means in the medium for communicating with a storage area network, and with a second host using a storage area network protocol in a non-ESCON protocol manner, the storage area network including a plurality of storage devices exclusive of the first host and the second host.

26. (original) The article of claim 25, wherein the storage area network protocol is a FICON protocol.

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27. (original) The article of claim 25, wherein the means in the medium for communicating comprises:

means in the medium for translating between the storage area network protocol; and

means in the medium for a host-to-host communications protocol selected from the group consisting of TCP/IP and SNA.

28. (cancelled)

29. (previously presented) The article of claim 25, wherein the medium is selected from the group consisting of magnetic, optical, biological and atomic data storage media.

30. (cancelled)